

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
GREENVILLE DIVISION

United States of America,)	C/A No.: 6:98-cr-207-1
)	
v.)	
)	
Kareem R. Thompson,)	ORDER
)	(Written Opinion)
Defendant.)	
)	
)	

18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) Order for Sentence Reduction

This matter comes before the Court on the defendant's motion for a reduction in the term of imprisonment imposed based on a guideline sentencing range that has subsequently been lowered and made retroactive by the United States Sentencing Commission (the Commission) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 994(u).

Background

The defendant's motion is based on Amendment 706 to the United States Sentencing Guideline (U.S.S.G.) § 2D1.1(c). This amendment adjusts the base offense level assigned to each threshold quantity of cocaine base, or "crack cocaine," downward by two levels. U.S.S.G. App. C, Amend. 706 (Nov. 1, 2007). On December 11, 2007, the Commission voted to add this amendment to the list of amendments in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(c) that may be applied retroactively. As this amendment became effective on March 3, 2008, this matter is now ready for disposition.

Discussion

The defendant was last sentenced on April 13, 2000. Defendant's base offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1, was a 34. However, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1(b)(a) (1995), the defendant's offense level was adjusted to a 37 because the defendant is a career criminal. As a career criminal, the defendant's guideline range was "not based on the quantity of drugs attributable to him, but rather on the maximum sentence for the offense of conviction." *United States v. Smith*, 441 F.3d 254, 273 (4th Cir. 2006). Defendant's offense level was then reduced by 3 levels for acceptance of responsibility. Therefore, the Court found that the defendant's total offense level (34) and criminal history category (VI) called for a sentencing range of 262 to 327 months. Under these guidelines and a reduction under Rule 35, the Court sentenced the defendant to 131 months.

Under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2), this Court may reduce a previously imposed sentence "based on a sentencing range that has subsequently been lowered by the Sentencing Commission . . . *if such a reduction is consistent with applicable policy statements* issued by the Sentencing Commission." (emphasis added) Here, a reduction in the defendant's sentence is not consistent with the applicable policy statements.

U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(b)(1), the applicable policy statement, states that:

In determining whether, and to what extent, a reduction in the defendant's term of imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and this policy statement is warranted, the court shall determine the amended guideline range that

would have been applicable to the defendant if the amendment(s) to the guidelines listed in subsection (C) had been in effect at the time the defendant was sentenced. In making such determination, the court shall substitute only the amendments listed in subsection (c) for the corresponding guideline provisions that were applied when the defendant was sentenced and shall leave all other guideline application decisions unaffected.

Supplement to 2007 Guidelines Manual (March 3, 2008). The application note to this section further explains which cases qualify for a reduction under § 3582(c).

It states:

Eligibility for consideration under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) is triggered only by an amendment listed in subsection (c) that lowers the applicable guideline range. Accordingly, a reduction in the defendant's term of imprisonment is not authorized under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and is not consistent with this policy statement if . . . (ii) an amendment listed in subsection (c) is applicable to the defendant but the amendment does not have the effect of lowering the defendant's applicable guideline range because of the operation of another guideline or statutory provision (*e.g.*, a statutory mandatory minimum term of imprisonment).

Application Note 1(A), U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10.

This application note makes it clear that a reduction in the defendant's sentence is not consistent with U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(b)(1) and is not authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 3582(c). Though Amendment 706 is applicable to the defendant, it does not have the effect of lowering the defendant's applicable guideline range because of the operation of the career criminal guideline in § 4B1.1(b). Because a reduction in the defendant's sentence is not consistent with the applicable policy statement, this Court is not

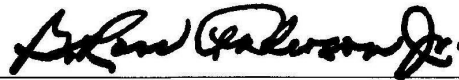
authorized to reduce the defendant's sentence pursuant to § 3582(c)(2).

Conclusion

After a thorough review of the defendant's motion, relevant law, and the advisory nature of the guidelines, this Court DENIES the defendant's motion.

IT IS THEREFORE SO ORDERED the defendant's motion be DENIED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Ross Anderson, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

G. ROSS ANDERSON, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

May 20, 2008
Anderson, South Carolina

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Rules 3 and 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, the defendant has the right to appeal this Order within ten (10) days from the date of its entry. Failure to meet this deadline, as modified by Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, **will waive the right to appeal.**